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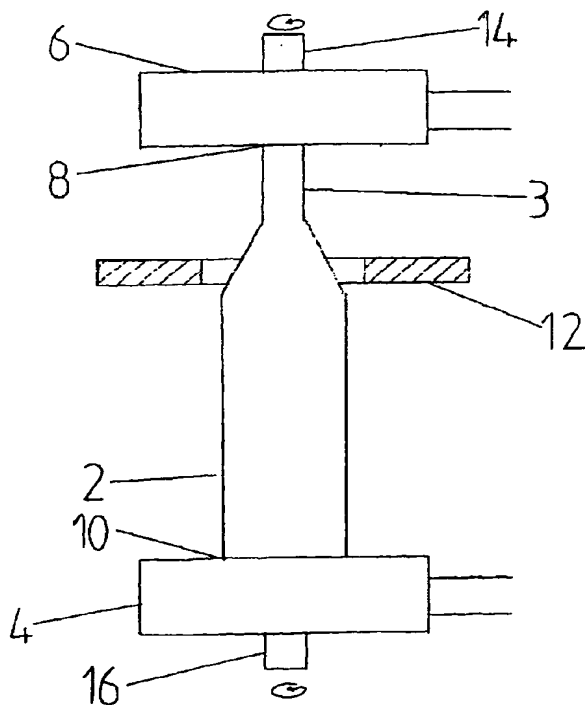
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A PREFORM



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for processing a preform and/or drawing an optical fibre. The method is characterized by securing the preform (2) to the processing device by means of at least two separate gripping means (4, 6), heating the preform (2) or a section thereof by means of at least one heating device at least locally, generating a tension in the preform (2) by means of the gripping means (4, 6), and processing the preform (2) by moving one of the gripping means (4, 6) and the heating means (12) and by keeping the gripping means (4, 6) on the side of the end product of the preform in position relative to the body of the processing device, whereby the end product produced also remains in position relative to the body of the processing device.

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- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GI, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,

KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GI, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: C03B 37/025, C03B 23/047

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: C03B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4608071 A (KIYOSHI YOKOKAWA ET AL), 26 August 1986 (26.08.86), column 3, line 26 - line 31, claims 1,4 --	1-28
A	US 6438997 B1 (TATSUHIKO SAITO ET AL), 27 August 2002 (27.08.02), figure 1, abstract --	1-28
A	US 5755849 A (SUMIO HOSHINO ET AL), 26 May 1998 (26.05.98), figures 3A-3C, abstract --	1-28
A	US 4121920 A (JOHN T. BALKWILL), 24 October 1978 (24.10.78), claim 1 --	1-28

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4654065 A (ROBERT J. NAUMANN ET AL), 31 March 1987 (31.03.87), figure 3, abstract  -- -----	1-15

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

06/09/03

International application No.

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